

## ■ MESSAGES

### AN INVITATION — From the Mayor of Franklin



"Any proposed return by ex-Servicemen and others associated with this area in the early forties can be assured of a sincere and warm welcome. There is a widespread appreciation of the part played by these people in the development of our community during those war years. There is considerable enthusiasm for the opportunity to welcome visitors, and appropriate functions are intended to entertain and assist in

making this 50th Anniversary enjoyable and memorable. A warm and cordial invitation is extended, on behalf of our citizens, to return and join with us in recognising this most important phase of our history."

Max Short, Mayor, Franklin District Council

### A WELCOME — From the Returned Services Association

"To all folks who will be revisiting your wartime haunts in the Franklin district I extend to you a very warm welcome. It will be our privilege and honour to make all ex-Service people honorary members of the Pukekohe and Districts' Returned Services Club situated behind the Pukekohe War Memorial Hall. Hoping to meet many of you soon and that your visit will be enjoyable and rewarding."

David Orr, President

### A MESSAGE — From the Franklin Historical Society

"Anniversaries present an opportunity to commemorate and reflect on events that are now part of our District's history. The Booklet to be published will enable following generations to read about the impact of the War on the District of Franklin, as recollected by people who were there at the time. The plaques to be erected will provide them with a tangible reminder of where and when this part of our history was made."

Keith Morris, President

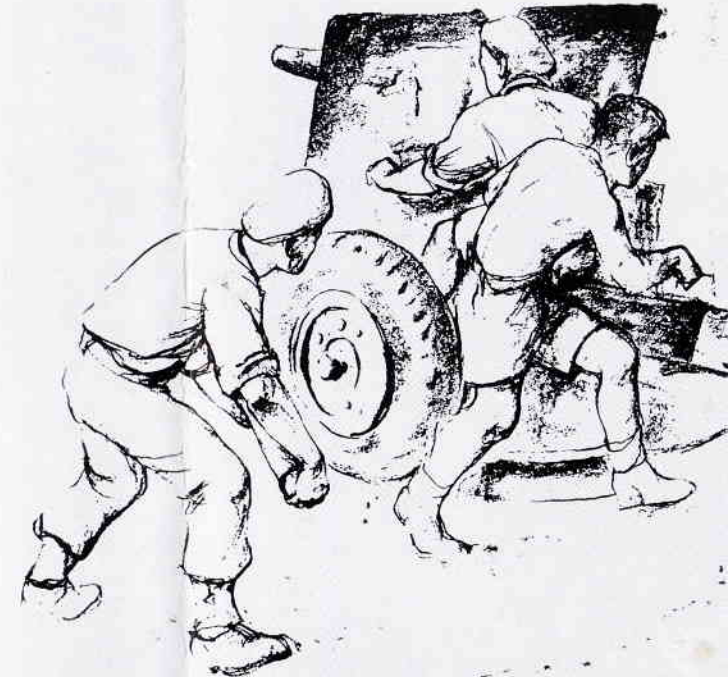
50th ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE  
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PUKEKOHE  
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*Franklin  
Remembers . . .*

# 50th ANNIVERSARY

*of the War Years  
1939 — 1945*



PUKEKOHE, NEW ZEALAND

## ■ ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS TO BE HELD AND TRIBUTES PAID

How a mainly rural community responded to the need to accommodate, feed and entertain the many thousands of New Zealand and American Service Personnel that were stationed in their countryside and towns.

## ■ ANNIVERSARY PUBLICATION

The Franklin Historical Society in conjunction with a sub-committee of the Franklin District Council is compiling a history of Franklin and its people during the 1939-45 War. It will be published to coincide with the 50th Anniversary of the mid-point of the war years, and the arrival in June 1942 of the first of the American Forces which were to come into the district during the following two years.

## ■ MILITARY CAMP SITES TO BE MARKED

It is also intended to mount *BRONZE MEMORIAL PLAQUES* at or near six of the permanent camps that were established to house the Military Forces.

- ☐ PUKEKOHE—(Racecourse, Show Grounds, Roseville Park, Moulton House).
- ☐ BOMBAY—(Raventhorpe, Portsmouth Road, and others).
- ☐ WESLEY COLLEGE—(Hospital and Sim Road Camp).
- ☐ HELVETIA—(Ostrich Farm Road and Wilsons).
- ☐ KARAKA—(Karakā North Road).
- ☐ SEAGROVE—Aerodrome (Waiau Pa).

One section of the proposed publication will detail these and many other camp sites and their location, and list information about the various New Zealand and American Military Units who occupied them, together with maps and photographs. A summary and time-table of the major events of the War will also be included.

## ■ FUNCTIONS TO BE HELD

In co-operation with the RSA and other community service organisations a memorial and unveiling function will be arranged at each of these sites at an appropriate date between October 1992 and April 1993. The degree of interest and support that has already been expressed by NZ and USA ex-servicemen's organisations, and government officials of both countries, should ensure the success of these functions.

## ■ THE PEOPLE'S STORY

An equally important purpose of the publication will be to relate the impact of these events on the communities and organisations, and on the people of Franklin, and how they responded to the changes and challenges brought about by the War. If your organisation or any of your Members have any personal recollections, anecdotes or interesting stories of those years that will help to depict life as it was, then don't hesitate to contact us. The editors would welcome contributions from soldiers who were in the camps and their impressions of the District and its people.

Because of shortages and censorship so much of what went on has never been recorded, and now is an opportune time to do so while so many who were here at the time are still with us. The proposed illustrated booklet of about 100 pages will be all about the years that are now an important period in our history.



*"Your courage and steadfastness never faltered, even when the enemy was almost at your gates. You allowed nothing to hamper the contribution which New Zealand has made through her sons on the field of battle and through her workers on the farm and in the factory. . ."*

Winston Churchill

## ■ PUBLICITY AND ADVERTISING

This circular is to notify interested organisations and individuals of the general intention, and will be distributed as widely as possible. The Committee would be pleased to be informed of particular organisations that would be interested in receiving a copy of this pamphlet. Co-operation with tourist and travel agencies is assured. More information will be forwarded on request as detailed planning proceeds.

## ■ WELCOME FOR AMERICAN VETERANS

As well as the arrangements in Franklin, plans are also being made to mark the Anniversary in other New Zealand Centres where American Servicemen were stationed.

The New Zealand Government is meeting the cost of publishing a book which will include photographs of most of the camp sites used by American Units and a complimentary copy will be presented to every American Veteran who returns to this country during the Anniversary period.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION WRITE TO:

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*"The people of the United States will never forget the part played by the people of New Zealand in this long and bitter struggle. They will remember with everlasting gratitude the hospitality extended to American Forces during the dark days before the early campaigns on Guadalcanal and Tarawa . . ."*

President Truman